

Congressman Campbell Speaks about H.R. 6078 in House Financial Services Committee  
06/11.08

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to add to the chorus of concerns about this bill. I'll try and innumerate just five of them in the two minutes here. First is the effect on the market, which has been described that the housing market is in a virtual depression. We do not need to increase their costs. Also, we have government facilities that are intended to help low income people get housing and provide stable mortgages. We don't want to take their eye off the ball on those primary missions.

Second, we don't want the bill to be overly prescriptive. We have all seen the situation where someone comes into our office and says, "Oh, I have the greatest energy efficiency product there is, please mandate it." Because there is nothing better for a businesses margin than to have the government to mandate its product. So, we don't want to be doing that.

Third, it was talked about: mandates versus incentives. I agree that we want to go more towards incentives than mandates. But as I count this, about half of the provisions in here start with either require or mandatory. And that is too much.

Fourth, all on this committee are sometimes for federal preemption and sometimes against federal preemption. I don't think any of us is totally clean on that. But one thing we do have to remember, when it comes to housing, is that housing doesn't move. So, if there is one thing for which we have to be careful about, it's to not set federal standards that try and apply in Newport Beach, California – in Florida – in Seattle – in Montana – and in Palm Springs, where the housing is very different and doesn't move. I have a concern about that.

And then my fifth concern – and the chairman is correct – my fifth concern is not within the jurisdiction of this committee. But there is a point here that we can do all this [conservation] we want, but what we really need to be doing is producing more green, cheaper energy, such as nuclear, like Japan, Sweden, Italy, France and all these other countries that are now producing a lot of very clean, very cheap, nuclear power. And I yield back.